

# The Beacon

News For The Residents at Lakes of Fairhaven

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**QUEEN  
OF THE  
COURT**

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## QUEEN OF THE COURT

by Sharon Kays

Karrington Kays started playing sports at the age of five and has played every sport available, including Taekwondo and dancing. While attending Salyards Middle School, she played on the undefeated basketball team two years running, won two District Championships, ran relays on the track team that won District, and played on the volleyball team that won District.

When she entered high school at Bridgeland, Karrington decided to focus on volleyball and concentrate on her grades. Bridgeland has four teams (Freshman A, B, JV, and Varsity), so her goal was to make one of the teams and get a lot of playing time.

As a freshman, she landed a spot on Varsity and finished the season beyond her expectation of just making the team and getting a little playing time. She completed the season, making 2nd Team All-District, FROSH 59 (Best High School Freshman of their class nationally), Academic All-District, and made the USA A-2 High Performance in North Carolina.

Her sophomore year Bridgeland team went 16-0 undefeated in District and 43-5 overall. The icing on the cake was that Karrington finished the season, making the 1st team All-District, SOPH 79, Phenom list and Academic All-District. (For the record, uncommitted athletes on the American Volleyball Coaches Association Phenom List are invited by the AVCA to participate in the Phenom College Preparatory Program. For 2020, the Phenom Program was in conjunction with the NCAA DI National Championship and the AVCA Annual Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in December. Over the past eight years, 80% of athletes who participate in the Phenom Program play volleyball in college!)

But the best part, according to Karrington, was, "Getting to play on the team with my sister Kennedy who was the only Freshman to make Varsity. That was the first time we played on the same team since the 6th grade."

As a Junior, she was listed on the All Vype Team and will be a player to watch in 2021. Karrington is talking to 6-8 D1 Volleyball coaches often but knows she still has time on such a big decision. COVID has put a damper on the recruiting process for college coaches, so the process is a lot slower right now, and athletes have to be patient.

Karrington wants to go into physical therapy so she can help others and give back. She and her sister Kennedy have been giving back since they can remember and don't plan to stop now.

They took off school and went to West, Texas, in 2013 to serve food to the entire town after the huge fertilizer plant explosion. They served food to neighborhoods after Harvey. They passed out food to families in cars at the beginning of COVID through their Cypress Pearls National Charity League Chapter.

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They took off school and went to West, Texas, in 2013 to serve food to the entire town after the huge fertilizer plant explosion. They served food to neighborhoods after Harvey. They passed out food to families in cars at the beginning of COVID through their Cypress Pearls National Charity League Chapter. Karrington's favorite charity is Blanket Drive for the Homeless that she started for her 12th Birthday. "Warming up a very cold world one blanket at a time" is how she likes to say it. For her birthday each year instead of presents from her friends and family, she requests blankets.

She and some of her friends get together and donate the blankets to the homeless shelters, people on the street, Boys and Girls Country, CyFair Helping Hands, and Teen Life Center (for pregnant teens). In the last four years, she is very proud that she has donated over 600 blankets to people in need while learning a few life lessons along the way.

We all know that giving one's very best is required of leading athletes both individually and collectively as they strive to achieve their goals in the game. For Karrington and her sister Kennedy, that has carried over into their private lives where they have given their very best to share their blessings with others. Photos courtesy of VYPE Houston.

## Bridgeland High School Welcomes New Theatre Director

By Steven W. Murray

As Bridgeland High School enters its fourth academic year since opening in 2017, Ursa Major Theatrics — the school’s award-winning theatre company — welcomes Mr. Adam W. Delka as the new Director of Theatre. Leading the program with him is Mr. Nathan Stanaland who joined the program in the 2018-19 academic year as the Director of Technical Theatre.

Delka first started performing with the Superior Thespians in his hometown of Superior, NE. He is a graduate of the musical theatre program from the American Musical & Dramatic Academy (AMDA) of NYC, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts, music (BA) and a Master of Arts in Education, music (MAT) from Austin College in Sherman, TX.

The 2020-2021 academic year will mark Delka’s 15th year in education. As a full-time teacher, director, choreographer, and performer, Delka is involved in a variety of local theatrical endeavors. He teaches private voice lessons, teaches classes at the Stageworks Acting Academy and the Tribble School for the Performing Arts, and maintains a professional performance and directing career in the Houston theatre community.

Delka received the BroadwayWorld Houston award for Best Choreographer in 2013 for his work with Little Shop of Horrors by MJR Theatricals. He directed the Houston Family Arts Center/Stageworks production of Les Misérables, which received the BroadwayWorld Houston award for Best Musical in 2014. In 2015, he again received the BroadwayWorld Houston award for Best Choreographer for his work on Evita at the Houston Family Arts Center. He was nominated in several categories in both 2016 and 2017.

Earlier in 2020 at the Texas Thespians Educator Conference, receiving the first-ever Thespi Award from the Texas Thespians Association for his work as a theatre director and performing artist while educating students at such a high standard honored Delka.

Ursa Major Theatrics has accomplished much in their three years of providing theatrical education and experiences for both students and audiences alike. At the annual Texas Thespians Festival held each fall, they’ve had dozens of students qualify each year for nationals the following summers in categories such as monologue acting, duet acting, group acting, solo musical, group musical, and costume design. In 2019, the troupe’s entry All Rights Reserved was selected from among all entries at the Texas Thespians Festival to represent the state at the national competition.

Supporting Ursa Major Theatrics this year as Bridgeland Theatre Arts Booster Club executive board members are Amy Burns (President), Grace Cabaniss (VP of Operations), Leanna Miday (VP of Productions), Bonnie Cate (Treasurer), and Sandy Walding (Secretary).

Bridgeland High School and Ursa Major Theatrics began in 2017 in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and with a delayed start to the school year. As CFISD adjusts to the COVID-19 pandemic, Delka, Stanaland, students, and Booster Club members are also ready to adapt to whatever this year brings! Keep up with what’s happening within Ursa Major at [BridgelandHSTheatre.org](http://BridgelandHSTheatre.org) and follow them on Facebook ([BHSUrsaMajorTheatrics](https://www.facebook.com/BHSUrsaMajorTheatrics)).

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## BARRED OWL GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE

*Storyline contributed by Christina Gaudin-Morgan*



A few weeks ago, Christina Gaudin-Morgan, living in Saddle Ridge Estates, let her dogs out to exercise, and they found a young barred owl under the lanai nestled into the firewood area. She immediately took them back inside, thinking the owl felt trapped and would fly away when the coast was clear.

A few hours later, it was apparent that the owl was injured. After searching around for help, she located Friends of Texas Wildlife, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization where 100% of all donations support native Texas wildlife. It's located at 29615 Highland Blvd, in Magnolia.

The next day the Friends of Texas Wildlife called Christina and told her the owl had a wrap on its wing and, when ready, would be put with the other young owls they had in larger flight cages to strengthen the wing.

They also invited her and her family to participate in the release of another barred owl they have at a park in Cypress and her owl when they were both ready to fly.

On Wednesday, July 29th, her daughter, Juliana Morgan, her boyfriend, Robert "Bobby" Gillis, Jr., and Christina met one of the volunteers from Friends of Texas Wildlife, at Cypress Park on Eldridge. They participated in the release of three rehabilitated barred owls, including their rescued owl, Little Hoot.

Friends of Texas Wildlife release rehabilitated barred owls at Cypress Park regularly. We hope that Little Hoot and the two others can locate some of their previously released cage mates. More than likely, they will migrate and home elsewhere but are initially scared on their first day released.

This was an extraordinary experience that helped teach that human purposes vary. On the day that they found Little Hoot, they realized their mission was to aid creatures with whom they were blessed to share this earth. He needed their help. They are thankful for Friends of Texas Wildlife and the volunteers and donors who aid in preserving our Texas wildlife animals.



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## *Name Change for Fairfield Seniors of Cypress*

Traveling Seniors of Cypress, formerly known as Fairfield Seniors of Cypress, is a group of fellow travelers mainly from in and around Cypress. They enjoy at least one; sometimes two, day trips a month. The buses are provided by Precinct 3 free of charge. Their trips run the gamut from art museums to Presidential Libraries, Festivals to major league games. Plus, they squeeze in a lot of good eating to go along with their travels.

They also conduct several longer excursions to explore more of Texas and discover America's vast beauty and history. "Since we started," Jo Ann Lambert, trip coordinator, explained, "we've taken trips to Branson, Missouri, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, and the Texas Wine Country. We also had another Texas Wine Tour and a trip to New Orleans scheduled for the spring. But, both were canceled due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

"It all began a few years ago when Jackie Devine and

I discovered that the senior trips in Fairfield had been discontinued. "With both of us relatively new to the area, we wanted to build a strong circle for friends. Plus, we knew that there were plenty of other baby boomers, ages 50 and above, in the area looking for travel and adventure, but needing the trips to be reasonably priced. We felt that we had the answer.

"Our first stop was Precinct 3 to see if we could schedule busses for our area. Once we had that in place, we met with Bill Cook, who circulates the Fairfield Fifty Plus Fun-Loving Groups Weekly e-Newsletter, to see if we had everything in order. After that, we were in business. Our trips were full from the very beginning with like-minded seniors looking to explore the world, safely and cost-effectively.

"Before long, we began getting calls from as far away as Spring, Pearland, Baytown, and from all over Harris County. Because of the broader appeal, we decided to change our name to Traveing Seniors of Cypress to help the outlying area know they were welcome to join us.

"Currently, we have several short-distance trips planned, and two that will take us out of Texas. One will be to Nashville in November 2020, and the other to New Orleans in the spring of 2021. For those two trips, since they are extended adventures, we would be delighted to take along folks under 50 if they would like to hitch a ride."

The fun and relaxation of a group trip can add zest and happiness to anyone's life. While enjoying a change of scenery and traveling safely in a relaxed environment, travelers will likely make new friends, relieve a little stress, and add a little to pep to their step!

Their next major will be to Nashville on November 29th, 2020. For more information contact Jo-Ann Lambert: pstlgrl@gmail.com or Jackie Devine: jackie.devine@comcast.net

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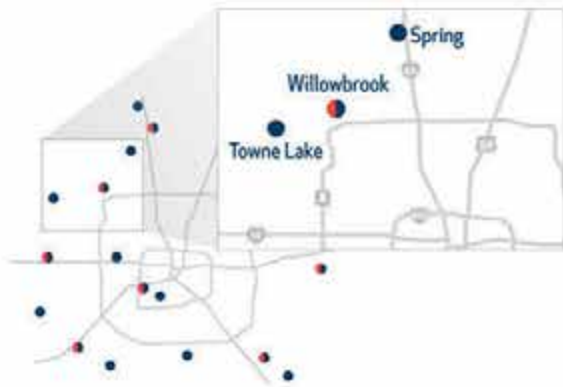


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